

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/297,181 Confirmation No. 9384  
Applicant : Laurent BRACCO, *et al.*  
Filed : April 26, 1999  
TC/A.U. : 1636  
Examiner : Kaushal  
  
Docket No. : ST96030-US (80375.0034)  
Customer No. : 29693

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REPLY AND AMENDMENT**

In response to the Office Action dated March 12, 2003, applicants respectfully request reconsideration. In light of the remarks below, applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants also submit an Extension of Time request, corrected Formal Drawings, and an executed Declaration.

In addition, applicants request entry of the following amendments.